

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 04348 141814Z

43

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 PM-03 L-01

RSC-01 /036 W

----- 108928

R 141700Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8579

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4348

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV CS

SUBJECT: VESCO ARMS

1. DURING OUR MEETING NOVEMBER 13 PRESIDENT ODUBER TOLD ME THAT HE WAS APPROACHED ABOUT A MONTH AGO BY AN EMISSARY OF ROBERT VESCO TO SAY THAT HE (VESCO) WAS INNOCENT OF ANY ARMS TRAFFIC TO COSTA RICA BUT THAT HE (AGAIN VESCO) WAS BEING USED BY THE FIGUERES FAMILY AND THEIR ASSOCIATES.

2. SPECIFICALLY, VESCO REPORTED THAT HE KNEW THAT JOSE MARTI FIGUERES, GORDON INGRAM AND PANAMA'S G-2, COLONEL NORIEGA, HAD PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN ARMS FACTORY PRESUMABLY FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES IN SOUTHERN COSTA RICA NEAR THE PANAMANIAN BORDER. VESCO'S REPORT WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD HEARD OF CONCENTRATIONS OF MEN BEING TRAINED ACROSS THE PANAMANIAN BORDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION IN EITHER COSTA RICA OR PANAMA.

2. ODUBER SAID THAT HE DID NOT INITIALLY GIVE THESE REPORTS MUCH CREDENCE UNTIL LATER PIECES OF INFORMATION GAVE HIM SOME CONCERN. HE THEREFORE TOOK THE MATTER UP WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS IN THEIR MEETING LAST WEEK. ACCORDING TO ODUBER, TORRIJOS ASSURED HIM THAT NEITHER HE NOR COLONEL NOREIGA WAS INVOLVED IN ANY SUCH FUNNY
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BUSINESS. ODUBER GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT THESE

ASSURANCES PUT HIS MIND AT REST, AND HE DID NOT INDICATE
THAT HE WAS TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION TO PURSUE THE
MATTER.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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